



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

also, when he tells us that "the era of excessive capitalization, of good will, promoters' fees, monopoly profits, and the delusions of visionary economists is happily at an end" (p. 772); and we are forced to question his authority for the statement that the Gates stock in the Louisville and Nashville "was finally turned over to the Atlantic Seaboard Air Line" (p. 765). Possibly the captious critic will find something to question in the propriety of publishing the earlier chapters in their original form, and of repeating chapter lxii as chapter lxvii, substantially without change. But these are matters of taste, about which there need be no dispute.

The book should not be taken too seriously, however. The original edition was not intended for the well-informed reader, and there is little in the additional chapters which will add to its value, or extend its range of appeal.

F. W. POWELL.

New York City.

Taxation. Papers and Proceedings of the First Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Academy of Social Sciences. Edited by FRANK L. McVEY. (Published for the Academy by the Northfield News, 1908. Pp. 197. \$2).

In a way this volume is a companion piece to the collection of papers on taxation recently published by the National Tax Association (see review, *Economic Bulletin*. Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 44). It contains nine carefully prepared papers on nine different subjects relating to taxation. Among these papers are several of general interest. One is a rather despairing account of the taxation of Michigan railroads, by Robert H. Shields of the Michigan Tax Commission. He shows how the Commission, originally formed with such *éclat* for equalization and for the administration of the ad valorem taxes on railroads which replaced the old gross earnings taxes, gradually lost its power, with the many transformations it underwent, until he is forced to say of it: "While our commission still has an important function to perform in adjusting differences arising between the assessing officer and the aggrieved taxpayer, its usefulness as a commission whose original purpose was to in-

augurate a system of equal taxation throughout the state no longer exists." This remark applies to the board's functions as a board of equalization. His view of its powers and their exercise as a board of assessment for railroads is nearly, if not quite, as doleful. He says in conclusion: "the fault is not so much with the law as with the manner of its execution." But the trend of his discussion shows that he despairs of finding any sound method of arriving at the value of railroad property for purposes of taxation. Michigan has spent more money on tax commissions than any other state. She seems to have been especially unfortunate in the results. Mr. Shields coming fresh from the brunt of the battle tells us that the reason for this is the excessive adherence to impracticable theories. He implies that the theory of the *ad-valorem* tax is untenable.

There are two papers on the valuation of real estate for the purposes of taxation, both of which furnish valuable suggestions for procedure in equalization. The second of these by Prof. T. S. Adams of the University of Wisconsin deals with the well known success which that state has made in this respect. Mr. Adams asserts that the tax commissions of Wisconsin have "seen their duty and done it;" by which he means that they actually arrived at approximately the true value of real estate in Wisconsin. An examination of his address reveals, however, that in that phenomenally tax-perfect state there are enough individuals who are willing to record the true consideration when they buy real estate, to make it possible to reduce the problem of assessment to the statistical question: "What relation should the actual selling value of land bear to the taxable value?" It would be interesting to know in how many other states the records would be as useful, probably in very few outside of the Northwest. Consequently this discussion by Professor Adams, interesting and acute as it is, is of purely local interest. It is further to be remembered that the valuation made by the State Tax Commission does not alter the assessment for local purposes, but merely the apportionment of the state tax, and that the state tax on property in general is so light that there would hardly be any object in concealing the selling price.

In another article Mr. Wm. M. Baldwin presents his well known views on the taxation of railroads, and reiterates his objections to the Cooley-Adams method.

Mr. Nils P. Haugen presents an article on the taxation of credits and money, in which he restates the old arguments in favor of that form of double taxation which imposes a tax on credits and another on the property by which credits are secured. While Mr. Haugen is here, as always, an extremist, he brings out in this article what the reviewer believes to be the true reason why so many states continue this form of double taxation. Stated somewhat differently from Mr. Haugen's phraseology, it is that funded income, or property from which funded income is derived, represents more faculty than unfunded income and should pay another tax. It does not strengthen Mr. Haugen's position to attack, as he does, the statistics so often quoted concerning the shifting of the mortgage tax in California. It so happens that every one of the four or five ways in which Mr. Haugen thinks the California statistics might have erred was guarded against in the compilation of those statistics. They are correct and truly representative of California conditions.

The last three papers contain an interesting discussion of the mortgage registration tax.

CARL C. PLEHN.

University of California.

The Financial History of Wisconsin. By RAYMOND VINCENT PHELAN, Instructor in Economics, University of Minnesota. Doctoral thesis, University of Wisconsin, 1906. (Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin, 1908. Pp. 183-475. 50 cents).

This appears to be one of the investigations into the financial history of the states made with the assistance of the Carnegie Institution in the division of which Prof. Henry B. Gardner is in general charge. It is a very thorough a piece of work based on original documents. The following citation from the preface will show its scope :

"The striking characteristics of Wisconsin's financial history are many and significant, among which may be mentioned, the careful provisions of the Constitution to guard against a great and burdensome state debt, the great extravagance in local com-